

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00218 160826Z

20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 SY-04 INSE-00 /032 W
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R 100825Z APR 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 898

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 218

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS::SREF, IZ, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGED EXECUTION OF ASSYRIAN BISHOPS

REF: STATE 061097

1. PAPAL NUNCIO JEAN RUPP CHECKED OUT ALLEGATION CONTAINED
REFTEL ABOUT EXECUTION OF "ASSYRIAN BISHOPS" ELIAS AND
THEODORE ODISHO ON CHARGE OF SPYING FOR USG. HE CONVEYED
FOLLOWING TO ME ON APRIL 9.

2. ELIAS AND THEODORE ODISHO ARE BROTHERS OF ABOUT 40
WHOSE DECEASED FATHER WAS A NESTORIAN BISHOP. IN KEEPING
WITH LOCAL NESTORIAN TRADITION, FATHER ATTEMPTED TO HAVE HIS
SONS CONSECRATED AS BISHOPS. IT WAS DONE FRAUDULENTLY AND
NEVER RECOGNIZED BY NESTORIAN CHURCH OR VATICAN. NEITHER
BROTHER IS IRAQI CITIZEN. ELIAS WAS REPORTEDLY EXPELLED
TO IRAN IN DECEMBER 1971 AT TIME OF GENERAL EXPULSION OF
IRANIAN CITIZENS. (NOT KNOWN IF HE IS IRANIAN CITIZEN.)
THEODORE WAS ARRESTED SOMETIME WITHIN PAST TWO YEARS ON CHARGES
OF TAKING MONEY FOR ISSUING FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS. HE IS
BELIEVED TO BE STILL IN JAIL IN IRAQ ON THESE CHARGES. NEITHER
EXPULSION NOR ARREST HAVE, ACCORDING TO MONSIGNOR RUPP'S
INFORMATION, "ANYTHING TO DO WITH EITHER RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL
PERSECUTION".

3. I HAVE NO OTHER INFRMATION ON BROTHERS AND CANNOT
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00218 160826Z

OBTAIN IT WITHOUT JEOPORADIZING THOSE I TALK TO. IN

CONVEYING AS MUCH AS ABOVE AS NECESSARY TO RELATIVES IN
U.S., DEPARTMENT SHOULD OF COURSE NOT CITE PAPAL NUNCIO
AS SOURCE. LOWRIE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: ESPIONAGE, EXPULSION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
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Draft Date: 10 APR 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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